**Post:**

I have taken many online classes, but I have not fully appreciated its value in K-12 where there is a teacher available to facilitate the learning.After compiling and placing an online course on Schoology, I now see great value in online courses with teacher supervision in K-12 classrooms.The greatest advantage among many is anytime access to the class.In high school, students are pulled out of class for an abundance of reasons…athletics, U.I.L., and personal reasons, just to name a few.Anytime access to the class gives them the ability to stay up to date in their class work.I plan to put most of my classes onlinefor next year and I can see other teacher following once they see the advantages.Having a teacher’s class online frees up the teachers time for giving personal help to individual students.

Implementing more online learning will require a great deal of staff development.The two biggest obstacles will be convincing teachers of the value of online learning and then finding the time to learn technology.Solange Castro Belcher quotes in his article “Teaching to Change LA”,*"The test-taking craze is out of control. Teachers don't have time to do the things that they pedagogically think is important. For some of us, technology is one of those things."*The first obstacle will be to find the time for teachers to learn more about online learning, then they can be convinced of its value.Once the teachers “buy into” technology use and its value, they will be willing to learn and apply its use.

Online learning can have a huge impact on the business world.It enables employees to gain further education and maintain their jobs.This is extremely valuable in our presently depressed economy.The Sloan-C report states, “*Bad economic times have historically been good for higher education enrollments, either because the decreased availability of good jobs encourages more people to seek education, or because those currently employed seek to improve their chances for advancement by advancing their education*.”This is very important because it elevates the education of the average employee.When there is more competition for jobs, employers can demand more qualified and higher educated applicants.This in turn gives the business world a greater opportunity to increase productivity based on having a more educated workforce.

Belcher, Solange Castro, (2001). Teaching to Change LA, 1, Retrieved May 5, 2010 from http://tcla.gseis.ucla.edu/divide/teachers/belcher.html

The Sloan Consortium, (2009). Learning on Demand: Online Education in the United States, 2009, 1. Retrieved May 5, 2010 from http://www.sloanconsortium.org/publications/survey/learning\_on\_demand\_sr2010

**Responses:**

Jack I totally agree with seeing ways that online learning can be used in K-12 to help students keep up. Since I have elective classes my classes are the one the students are pulled out of and we cannot deduct from their grade the assignments they did not get done. The biggest part of mine is they missed out on the skill we were learning, so by having an online class they could at least work on what we are doing in class. After reading your post, I just had one of those the light comes on sensations.

Hey Jack, we didn't do introductions this time around, but I teach music in an "inner-city" high school in Houston ISD. For the last three weeks, I haven't seen ANY of my ninth grade students in two periods because literally all of them were on an altered schedule to improve their math scores. Apparently, none of them took seriously the released TAKS tests, so the only data we (the campus) had indicated that nearly all of them would fail the real test. I don't fault the administration for what I consider to be a radical move. Regardless, their decision brought on another set of problems too numerous to mention here. Suffice it to say, anytime access would have provided a way for my colleagues and me to continue instruction, instead of altering it significantly. I will mention one consequence for not having ninth grade in the classes - no grade for their progress report! How can they receive a grade if they have not been in the class?   
  
There are many things that don't come to mind when instructional design decisions are being considered; I think it is impossible to come up with all the problems that can happen. In spite of putting our most productive brains to the task, we cannot think of everything. I agree with you - online courses can be effective at seamless instruction and prevent even the unknown from happening.

Our district has been thinking about uploading recorded lessons onto our school webpages so students who have missed class can download them to Ipods. They have even thought about providing Ipods to students who don't have them. I certainly understand students being pulled from class for tutoring, speech, dyslexia classes, remedial reading/math, etc. This happens daily and they do miss out on valuable lessons. Researching various online course programs can certainly help out. If I feel comfortable with Schoology, I will definitely suggest this avenue. Our school technology instructionalist had not heard of the program so she is just as curious.

I can identify with the problem of pull-outs both from the perspective of a music teacher whose students are pulled out for TAKS remediation, and as a mother of a very active high school student who often misses class for extra-curricular events. I agree whole-heatedly that some type of online learning environment could be a great benefit for those students who constantly miss class, as well as for teachers who must see that their students receive instruction - even when they miss class.